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FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
TO RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5084

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 000904

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STATE FOR WHA/CAR AND OES/OMC

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TPHY](#) [OTRA](#) [EFIS](#) [KSCA](#) [VC](#)

SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED TO PORCH AND GEDAMKE FOR
TRAVEL TO ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

REF: USDOC 06341

¶1. Embassy Bridgetown welcomes and grants clearance to
Clarence Porch and Todd Gedamke to travel to St. Vincent and
the Grenadines from July 13-22, 2007, for the purpose of
attending the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
Scientific Meeting.

¶2. Per reftel, Embassy understands assistance is not
requested.

¶3. Embassy Bridgetown requests an outbrief be provided to the
Political/Economic Section relating to activities while in
the region within 10 working days of completion of travel.
Please provide the outbrief by telephone, 246/436-4950,
x2230, or by fax at 246/431-0384.

¶4. Entry/departure requirements: Mission policy is that all
USG travelers to the region be in possession of a valid
passport. Visas are not required, length of stay is
determined by immigration official upon arrival, if
necessary. All visitors must have a return or on going
ticket. There is a departure tax of 30 xcd (Eastern
Caribbean dollars) or 12 U.S. dollars.

¶5. The exchange rate in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is
2.70 xcd (Eastern Caribbean dollars) for one U.S. dollar.
U.S. currency, traveler's checks, and credit cards are
routinely and widely accepted.

¶6. The following is general information pertaining to
security and health considerations throughout the Eastern
Caribbean:

Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of
well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended,
especially at night. Be vigilant when using public
telephones or ATM machines near roadsides or quiet areas. As
in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry,
carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash
should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables
while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many
visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel
burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be
locked in room safes if possible.

Health

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a
visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to
become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged

exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines the major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito.

Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e., tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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